

Small Business Concerns, the evaluation shall include the past performance of offerors in complying with requirements of that clause. When a past performance evaluation is required by FAR 15.605, and the solicitation includes the clause at FAR 52.219-9, Small, Small Disadvantaged and Women-Owned Small Business Subcontracting Plan, the evaluation shall include the past performance of offerors in complying with requirements of that clause.

(b) Except for determinations based on violations or possible violations of section 27 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) Act, and unless otherwise specified in department/agency regulations, the contracting officer shall make the written determination. Determinations based on violations or possible violations of Section 27 of the OFPP Act shall be made as specified in FAR 3.104.

[56 FR 36326, July 31, 1991, as amended at 56 FR 67213, Dec. 30, 1991; 61 FR 18687, Apr. 29, 1996; 62 FR 2612, Jan. 17, 1997]

215.611 Best and final offers.

(c)(i) Before requesting an additional (second or subsequent) best and final offer, the contracting officer shall obtain approval from—

(A) The source selection authority and the senior procurement executive (SPE) for competitive negotiated acquisitions under formal source selection (see FAR 15.612). The SPE may delegate this authority to a level no lower than the head of the contracting activity.

(B) The head of the contracting activity (HCA) for all other competitive negotiated acquisitions. The HCA may delegate this authority to the chief of the contracting office.

(ii) Each HCA shall establish a system for reporting and documenting additional requests for best and final offers. Systems shall include as a minimum—

(A) The total number of competitive negotiated acquisitions awarded;

(B) The number of those acquisitions for which an additional request for best and final offers was approved and issued; and

(C) The reasons for approving each additional request for best and final offers.

(iii) To ensure that additional requests for best and final offers are used only when necessary and unavoidable, HCAs shall—

(A) Periodically analyze data collected under paragraph (c)(ii) of this section;

(B) Take appropriate corrective action, e.g., training, revising approval levels; and

(C) Provide periodic summary reports to the SPE as specified in department/agency regulations.

215.613 Alternate source selection procedures.

215.613-70 Four-step source selection procedures.

(a) *General.* The four-step source selection procedure is designed for those situations where the Government wishes to focus on technical excellence. Proposals are evaluated, a competitive range established, and an apparent successful offeror selected without discussions of proposal deficiencies (a deficiency is defined as that part of an offeror's proposal which would not satisfy the Government's requirements). Negotiations are conducted only in the final step and only with the apparent successful offeror.

(b) *Applicability.* Four-step source selection procedures may be used for—

(1) Competitively negotiated research and development acquisitions with an estimated value of \$2 million or more; or

(2) Other acquisitions as permitted by department/agency regulations, except those in paragraph (c) of this subsection.

(c) *Restrictions.* Four-step source selection procedures shall not be used for acquisitions which—

(1) Will require extensive discussion and negotiations;

(2) Use the authority of FAR 6.302-2;

(3) Are solely for personal or nonpersonal services;

(4) Are for architect-engineer services; or

(5) Have an estimated value of less than \$2 million.

(d) *Presolicitation.* Establish early and open dialogue with prospective offerors